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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and loving God, we pray Your blessing on us this day. In our duties, give us courage to press on with hearts open to emulating the forbearance and sacrifice You have demonstrated in Your steadfast love for us and for this world.

As brothers and sisters of Your creation, we pray the faith to leave behind all that has kept us from living into this Your gracious plan. And as we strain toward what is ahead, toward the goal of a higher calling, we pray Your favor.

May all who trust in You receive this Your benediction on today's journey:

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine brighten your heart.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.

And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.

We offer ourselves to You, praying in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MRVAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUARANTEE WOMEN EQUALITY

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I stand in favor of removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, and I ask the following question: What do the following women have in common?

Teacher Melissa Falkowski, who saved 19 children during the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School;

Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, who lost both her legs in a combat mission in Iraq;

Chemist Alice Ball, who revolutionized the treatment for leprosy;

Joy Harjo, who was the first Native American poet laureate;

Dolores Huerta, civil rights activist;

The nearly 9 out of 10 nurses and two-thirds of the workers at grocery store checkouts and fast-food counters who are women.

What do they have in common? No matter the sacrifice or contribution to society, if you are a woman or a girl in the United States of America, you are not guaranteed equality under the law.

After 245 years since the birth of our Nation, it is time to pass the equal rights amendment.

REDEVELOPING ABANDONED MINE LAND

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Mr. MATT CARTWRIGHT, once again as cosponsor on the RECLAIM Act. This bipartisan legislation focuses on reauthorizing the abandoned mine land fund, or the AML fund.

My district, Pennsylvania 15, has the most abandoned coal mines in the country, and reauthorizing the AML fund will provide opportunities and funding to clean up the abandoned land, not just in my district, but across the Nation.

Coal mining built America. It powered us onto the world's stage. It helped us win two world wars and brought our Nation into the modern era.

The AML is set to expire this year. While we continue to make progress on environmental restoration, reauthorizing the fund is crucial to support clean-up efforts and spur economic development.

Madam Speaker, Congress has a great opportunity to do right by Pennsylvania and other great coal mining States by reauthorizing the abandoned mine land fund, which is not funded by tax dollars but by a fee that has been placed on every ton of coal mined since 1977. Those moneys are sitting there in the Federal Treasury, and we need to reauthorize that abandoned mine land fund to further the redevelopment of the scars of the water and the land in those abandoned lands.

ENSURING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, every single constitution in the world

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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